

CIG-A 4.09

1 Oct. 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL CHAMBERLIN:

Subject: Washington Document Center.

1. The Central Intelligence Group has been approached by representatives of your office and by ONI concerning the future status of the Washington Document Center, which is now being operated jointly by the War and Navy Departments. Information has been received that due to budgetary cuts, the War Department Civil Service personnel now at the Center will be dropped early in October 1946.

2. In compliance with the expressed desires of your representatives and of those of the Chief of Naval Intelligence, the CIG has studied this entire matter and has arrived at the following conclusions:

a. The exploitation of this most complete and valuable collection of Japanese documents should, for the benefit of all intelligence agencies, continue without curtailment.

b. CIG is in a position to assure at least the temporary continuation of the Washington Document Center by arranging for the transfer of the Civil Service positions and personnel assigned thereto to CIG. The personnel will then be detailed to the Document Center on a non-reimbursable basis.

c. CIG is willing to take over the Washington Document Center on or about 1 December 1946 if certain administrative problems can be satisfactorily resolved. These problems include such matters as:

(1) securing assignment to CIG of the same or comparable space now occupied by the Washington Document Center.

(2) securing permission of the War and Navy Departments to retain the key military and naval personnel now on duty at the Center and in sufficient numbers to keep the Center operational. This problem must be met by either the reassignment of the personnel to CIG regardless of present departmental personnel ceilings placed on CIG or by the maintenance of this personnel at the Center by the respective departments.

(3) Disposition of the Allied Military personnel now on duty at the Center.

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d. In order to meet these problems, and to assure the mutual advantage to all governmental agencies of the continued operation of the Center, the CIG requests and requires the full cooperation of the departments.

e. CIG will, if it assumes control of the Washington Document Center, undertake to operate same for the full benefit of the intelligence agencies of the departments and to meet their needs for exploitation.

3. CIG requests that the Intelligence Division of the War Department inform this office by memorandum of its definite desires on this matter and of the extent of cooperation which it can offer. If your office does desire the continuation of the Center, the CIG will arrange transfer of the Civil Service positions and personnel and will then call a meeting of the appropriate administrative and other representatives in an attempt to solve the problems mentioned in paragraph 2c above.

/s,

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Director of Central Intelligence

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